

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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CORNELL AWARDED \$200,000 GRANT TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON CAMPUS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded Cornell University a grant of \$199,907. The grant will be used for a program to help reduce violence against women on campus, focusing on Cornell's large international population.

"Cornell's outstanding reputation attracts students and scholars from all over the world," said Hinchey. "That includes parts of the world where women may not have the same rights and services available to them that they have in the United States. Educating these visitors about the policies that are in place here to protect them will do a great deal to combat violence against women on campus."

The Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program was authorized by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 and reauthorized by the Violence Against Women Act of 2000. The program supports efforts designed to enhance victim services, implement prevention and education programs, and develop and strengthen security and investigation strategies in order to prevent and respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes on campuses.

Cornell will create a comprehensive campus project to address issues of sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence among its international student and scholars community. The project will conduct a needs assessment; develop and disseminate culturally appropriate resource material; create culturally specific outreach and education programs; translate relevant materials into several languages; train university law enforcement, judicial affairs and campus services; revise university policies; and strengthen offender accountability.

"This is not only an important initiative for women at Cornell, but also for women throughout the world who may come to the campus for a few years and return to their home countries," said Andrea Parrot, Program Coordinator and Professor of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell. "Universities that are successful at attracting international students are familiar with the fact that different countries have different cultural and legal standards when it comes to violence against women. By working to establish clear understandings of acceptable and unacceptable behavior, this initiative aims to reduce incidences of violence toward women. With this funding, we will be developing a unique approach to a well-documented problem. It is a pilot program that should get the attention of many other campuses."